



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
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## ***TRIFOLIUM GYMNOCARPON*** **HOLLYLEAF CLOVER**

Hollyleaf Clover is a perennial that grows in clumps with many stems that are ca. 15 cm high and arising from a branched rootcrown and a stout taproot. The leaves arise from the base of the stems and have membranous appendages that are 5-15 mm long at the base and which remain as shreds on the rootcrown. Each leaf has three ovate leaflets that are 5-20 mm long with sharply toothed margins. Foliage is sparsely covered with straight, appressed hairs. 3-15 spreading to nodding flowers are borne in loose clusters at the ends of peduncles, which are usually shorter than the leaves. The light yellow to flesh-colored flowers are 8-14 mm long. The densely long-hairy calyx is  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  as long as the corolla and is tubular at the base but forms 5 long, triangular teeth at the mouth. The small fruit pod usually has a single seed. Flowering from May-July.

This is our only tufted species of *TRIFOLIUM* without leafy stems that occurs below the subalpine zone.